

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising;
 - a) a plug ~~means~~ having a generally box-like configuration;
 - b) a plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug ~~means~~;
 - c) a cap ~~means~~ having a generally box-like configuration; and
 - d) a cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap ~~means~~;
 - e) wherein, when the plug ~~means~~ is mated to the cap ~~means~~, the plug ~~means~~, the cap ~~means~~, the plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element and the cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element comprises cutaways which mate with ~~said~~ at least one corresponding key and at least one corresponding rail on cap ~~means~~.
4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said plug ~~means~~ comprises cutaways which mate with ~~said~~ at least one corresponding key and ~~said~~ at least one corresponding rail on said cap ~~means~~.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element comprises cutaways which mate with at least one corresponding key and at least one corresponding rail on said cap ~~means~~.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 7~~ claim 14, wherein the cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element comprises a projection that contacts the deflectable finger to prevent said finger from deflecting.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 9~~ claim 14, wherein the plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element comprises a projection that contacts the deflectable finger to prevent said finger from deflecting.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plug ~~means~~ further comprises a detent which cooperates with a slot on the plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element to retain said plug terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element in position.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said detent comprises a two stage detent.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cap ~~means~~ further comprises a detent which cooperates with a slot on the cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element to retain said cap terminal position assurance ~~means~~ element in position.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 11~~ claim 12 wherein said detent comprises a two stage detent.

14. (new) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising;

- a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration, said plug comprising at least one cavity adapted to receive and retain an electrical terminal therein, said at least one cavity comprising a deflectable locking finger and a rib which cooperate to retain the electrical terminal in the cavity;
- b) a plug terminal position assurance-element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug;
- c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration;
- d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap;
- e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance-element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.

15. (new) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising;

- a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration;
- b) a plug terminal position assurance-element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug, said plug further comprising a detent which cooperates with a slot on the plug terminal position assurance element to retain said plug terminal position assurance-element in position;
- c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration; said cap further comprising a detent which cooperates with a slot on the cap terminal position assurance element to retain said cap

terminal position assurance element in position, at least one of said detent of said plug and said detent of said cap comprising a two stage detent;

d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap;

e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance-element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.

16. (new) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising;

a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration;

b) a plug terminal position assurance-element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug;

c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration;

d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap, said cap terminal position assurance element comprising cutaways that mate with at least one corresponding key and at least one corresponding rail on said cap;

e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.